

June 30 when we want the Iraqi people to take control of their governance, and we want the people to have a say. We set that deadline.

All of those who do not want freedom and democracy in Iraq, whether they be people who want control inside Iraq or whether they are people from outside Iraq who want to control the Middle East and make sure there is not a working democracy, all of those forces are now coming together against our coalition forces.

This is a very important time in our war on terrorism, and our hearts are with our troops on the ground. Our hearts are with their families right now.

Our hearts are with those brave civilians who have volunteered to go in to help stabilize the country of Iraq and to get an economy going there. We know they paid the price from the horrendous pictures we saw last week. Those volunteers who were trying to serve were not only murdered in cold blood, but their bodies were defiled. We will never forget those pictures, and we will never forget the pictures we have been seeing day after day out of Iraq.

We are here today to say how much we appreciate what they are doing. We are also here to say that every one of those who have died, they have not died in vain because we are not going to walk away from this battle. America will not cut and run and render those great losses meaningless. We will not do it because we have a President who is willing to stand firm in the face of adversity. Our President is supported by troops who are every bit as committed and dedicated as he is to the cause.

This is a very important time. I think it is so important that we should look at what is happening and make sure we are not doing anything which would hurt our cause while our troops are in harm's way.

I have to say I am troubled when I hear leaders say this is another Vietnam. We have troops on the ground in harm's way. Is it really productive for us to be labeling Iraq after 1 year as another Vietnam? Is it helpful to heap criticism on our President? Is it even helpful to be dissecting what happened in the run-up on the war on terrorism that began on September 11, 2001? Is it helpful to be saying who is at fault for bad information? Was it the Clinton administration or the Bush administration? Or was it before that? Is that what we ought to be talking about right now? I don't think so.

I think what we ought to be talking about right now is how we can come together as a country and make sure everyone in America understands the importance of this cause; that we support our Commander in Chief, and that we support our troops on the ground.

I have been to Iraq. Mr. President, you have been to Iraq. Our Commander in Chief has been to Iraq. We know a little bit about what it is like. We don't know everything because we are

not there when the bombs go off. We are not there when the missiles are launched. But we have been there, and we know our troops are the best. They are committed. They are doing exactly what needs to be done to stabilize this country.

It is not going to be easy. But the one thing we must all do is be committed to the proposition we can't fail, and dividing our country in half over who was responsible for faulty intelligence is one way we could fail.

What we need to be doing is uniting our country. This is America's challenge. This is our coalition's challenge, that we will stay the course. We will make sure a constitution is in place in Iraq so the people who have been oppressed for so many years, so the girls in Afghanistan who have been abused and uneducated will have the chance for lives all of us dream for our children to have, so the people in Iraq who were raped, tortured, and mutilated by Saddam Hussein and his regime will no longer have to fear that kind of treatment because they will be in control of their own destiny. We will be there with the security to help them see this through.

What we need right now is a united country, not a country sniping at our President, whether it is on the Senate floor or out in the field.

My time is up. But I think it is not productive for us to be divisive at this point. We need to be united in support of our Commander in Chief and our troops on the ground.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, my colleague from Texas noted we need a united country. I want to briefly respond to my colleague from New Jersey who talked about the economy before I talk about the situation in Iraq.

We had great news: 308,000 new jobs were created in March. Yet my colleagues from across the aisle say, Great news, but; they talk about all the celebration, but; and all the spinning, but. But there is no spinning about 308,000 jobs. The spinning is in the light of good news at a time which we should celebrate.

Americans are worried and concerned about their economic future and job growth and opportunity. We have good news. Why can't we simply be united? Why do we have to take the "Chicken Little" approach and say "the sky is falling, the sky is falling"? We have 308,000 new jobs, but; Pell grants have risen, but; 308,000 jobs, but. We have challenges in Social Security; 308,000 jobs, but.

The reality is not only 308,000 jobs in March, but the Labor Department went back and recalculated the job growth in January and February. What we have is 500,000 jobs over the last 3 months.

Why can't we come together for a moment and try not to create darkness out of light? Why do we have to dim the hopes of the people of this country? Confidence makes a difference. Our economy runs on confidence. We should have confidence based on the facts, and based on all the evidence that has been there for many months about manufacturing growth, investment, and about consumer spending, and now about job growth. Why do we have to spin and twist and turn and create dark clouds for political purposes? I hope we can do better.

IRAQ

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with many mixed emotions and with a firm conviction. Foremost among these emotions is a deep sympathy for the families who have lost loved ones during the recent surge of violence in Iraq. I believe there were 32 deaths of our servicemen in the last 96 hours. We lost one brave marine over the weekend who is from Minnesota. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and with others.

America will forever be in the debt of the brave men and women who volunteered. Every man and woman in uniform in Iraq and Afghanistan is a volunteer. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice. It is with a heavy heart I reflect on that. But my prayers are with them and my thoughts are with them. My admiration is with them, and the thanks of every Minnesotan and every American is with them for their sacrifice and their courage.

I am of the Jewish faith. We just celebrated the Passover tradition, celebration and commemoration of Israel's deliverance from Egypt and from slavery almost 6,000 years ago. One of the things about that holiday is in that service we have a dinner which is a ritual dinner, and we celebrate. We thank God for deliverance. But in that service we also talk about not only ourselves; it is not enough that God delivered us from slavery, but we need to exert ourselves in the deliverance of others. I think that is more than a Jewish tradition. It is more than an American President. Our President reminded us it is a universal principle; that freedom is not America's gift to the world, but it is God's gift.

This is also a solemn time to remember the genocide in Rwanda 10 years ago when we as a Nation stood by and over 1 million people were slaughtered.

This is the anniversary of the fall of Baghdad for which the whole civilized world should rejoice. It has been a year without new mass graves being filled. A half million Iraqis were slaughtered by Saddam Hussein, by the brutal tyrant. It has been a year in which the torture chambers and the rape rooms are now silent. It has been a year when the wealth of Iraq, a nation with millions of poor people, has not been plundered to sustain the obscene decadence